

HEALTH
A-4 AUG 1945
C.R. 37



A N N U A L R E P O R T
O N T H E
HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH AND
MELCOMBE REGIS FOR THE YEAR
1 9 4 4

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Medical Officer of Health.

Health Centre,
Westham Road,
Weymouth.

February, 1945.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE REGIS

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1944.

It is a pleasure to report that the health of the townspeople has been maintained at a high level during the year under review, and every effort has been made by the Public Health Services to assist in keeping up this standard.

In general with the rest of the country, the birth rate in Weymouth has risen - there were almost two hundred more births than in the previous year - and it is hoped that this will not be only a temporary improvement. In Paragraph 234 of his famous Report on "Social Insurance and Allied Services" Sir William Beveridge has indicated from facts taken from the White Paper on "Current Trend of Population in Great Britain" that as a nation we are growing older because, unless a higher birth rate is maintained, "in 1971 the children will be outnumbered by the possible pensioners". It is therefore necessary if we are to retain our position as a power in world affairs that everything possible should be done to preserve young lives by reducing our infantile mortality rates and in particular our neo-natal mortality rates i.e. the number of children who die in the first year and particularly the first month of life. With this in view, very careful consideration has been given to Ministry of Health Circular 20/44 on the Care of Premature Infants. Special incubator cots have been made to a Health Department specification by two members of the C.D. Rescue Service and are being equipped through the generosity of the Ladies Voluntary Committee.

The Report includes a statement of the steps taken to maintain a high level of immunisation against Diphtheria amongst the child population, and also of the work done to reduce the incidence of Scabies and other verminous infestations.

Your Sanitary Inspectors have spared no effort in maintaining that close and careful supervision over the many factors concerning environmental hygiene without which the health of the people could not be maintained.

Following the appointment in December, 1943, of Mr. H. H. Gardner as full-time Rodent Officer, a survey of the whole Borough was carried out and the various degrees of rat infestations were plotted on large scale maps. Ridding premises of rats is nowadays not the exciting business it was in years gone by when terriers and sticks were the chief form of attack. Modern methods of disinfection rely on scientific procedures based on a close study of the habits of rats and a careful reconnaissance of the premises concerned. Briefly it may be said that the rats are lulled

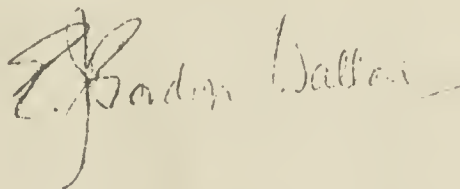
into a false sense of security by the placing of all of these places of unpoisoned bait to which is then added a poison which kills the unsuspecting rats. Throughout the year Mr. Gardner and his two operators have carried out this work with marked ability and energy.

As is now well known this part of the South Coast was privileged to be used as one of the bases for the Invasion of Europe, and the townspeople had ample evidence of the armed might of our Allies. They are perhaps unaware however that the Public Health Services had a responsible part to play in the medical inspection of foreign civilians subsequently landed at this Port, and in giving them appropriate treatment to ensure that no infectious disease was brought in to the Country.


The preparation of this Report has been accelerated in view of my forthcoming departure on temporary leave of absence to work with the Civil Affairs branch of the Army on the Continent, but it will not be possible to publish the Report until the usual vital statistics are received from the Registrar General.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Council for their unfailing kindness and consideration and my fellow officials and my own staff for their valuable co-operation and help in the work of the Public Health Department. I feel quite sure that this same consideration and help will be readily given to Dr. Alice Ward who will be Acting Medical Officer of Health during my absence.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1944:

Estimated population, middle of 1944 ... 29,160

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
<u>Live Births:</u>	671	329	342	(Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Legitimate	596	291	305	the estimated resident
Illegitimate	75	38	37	population = 23.1)
<u>Stillbirths:</u>	15	7	8	(Rate per 1,000 total
Legitimate	12	6	6	live and stillbirths =
Illegitimate	3	1	2	21.8.)

TOTAL DEATHS, 1944

(Registrar-General's Official Returns)

ALL CAUSES = 380; MALE = 179 FEMALE = 201.

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Puerperal Causes	3	-	3
Prematurity	8	3	5
Congenital malformation	5	4	1
Typhoid, paratyphoid	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	17	9	8
Tuberculosis, other forms	5	-	5
Syphilitic diseases	4	3	1
Influenza	2	1	1
Measles	1	1	-
Acute poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
Cancer - all sites	65	30	35
Diabetes	5	1	4
Intracranial Vascular Diseases	28	8	20
Heart Disease	98	50	48
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	10	2	8
Bronchitis	13	11	2
Pneumonia	18	10	8
Other Respiratory diseases	4	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach	5	4	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases	10	2	8
Nephritis	10	5	5
Suicide	4	2	2
Road Traffic Act	7	6	1
Other violent causes	15	6	9
All other causes	42	19	23
TOTALS:-	380	179	201

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	=	13.1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	=	32.8
Legitimate Infants	=	28.5
Illegitimate Infants	=	80
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	=	4.3

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS:

Births:

The resident live birth rate (number of live births per 1,000 population) was 23.1. This is 5.5 above the average for England and Wales (17.6). The total number of births was 686, of which 15 were stillbirths, and the number of live births exceeded the deaths by 291.

It is interesting to compare these figures with those given in 1938, which was the last occasion when a detailed statistical report for the Borough was published. In that year 505 births were recorded amongst the resident population of 32,810, and the number of live births exceeded the deaths by 68.

Deaths:-

The number of deaths of Weymouth residents during 1944 was 380. The corresponding figure for 1938 was 418. The crude death rate of 13.1 for the year 1944 is 1.5 higher than the figure 11.6 given for England and Wales. It is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria, and only one death from Measles, but the maternal mortality rate of 4.3 (deaths of women from complications of pregnancy and childbirth per 1,000 total births) is 2.37 higher than the corresponding figure of 1.93 for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate (number of children dying under the age of one year per 1,000 live births) was 32.8. This compares favourably with the figure of 46 for England and Wales. Both figures show a satisfactory trend towards the saving of valuable infant lives.

In 1938 the infant mortality rate for Weymouth was 43.2 and for England and Wales 53.

It is disquieting to note that the illegitimate child has less chance of living than the legitimate - out of 1,000 legitimate live births in Weymouth, 28.5 children fail to reach the age of one year. Out of 1,000 illegitimate live births, 80 children fail to have their first birthday.

It is evident that these children start life with physical as well as social disabilities.

STAFF:

Mrs. H. Hurst, S.R.N., S.C.M., resigned her appointment as Health Visitor and School Nurse on the 14th October, 1944, and Miss D. Sunderland, S.R.N., S.C.M., was appointed to take her place on the 6th December, 1944, and began her duties on the 22nd January, 1945.

Miss M. Mantell was appointed as Clinic and Food Sales Clerk on the 10th January, 1944.

There were no other staff changes during 1944.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1944 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Non-Civilian</u>
Small Pox	-	-
Scarlet Fever	58	-
Diphtheria	-	1
Dysentery	20	3
Whooping Cough	88	-
Measles	57	-
Acute Pneumonia	30	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	-
Scabies	598	-
Erysipelas	8	-
Food Poisoning	26	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES DURING 1944:-

The normal health services were maintained throughout the year. There were no major outbreaks of infectious disease and no case of Diphtheria amongst the civilian population was notified during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES:-

Ante-Natal Clinic:

This is held on Monday afternoons from 2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m., and is primarily for the benefit of expectant mothers who are later to be admitted to the Weymouth & District Hospital for their confinements.

231 expectant mothers attended during the year making in all 390 attendances.

Post-Natal Clinic:

Women are advised to attend for a Post-Natal Examination four to six weeks after the birth of their baby. Facilities for this examination are provided on Monday afternoons concurrently with the ante-natal clinic. During the year 5 women were examined post-natally.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS ANTE-NATAL SCHEME:-

During the year 164 expectant mothers were examined under this Scheme, of whom 124 mothers were examined once, 36 were examined twice and 4 received the full number of three examinations.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS:-

Child Welfare Clinics were held as follows:

St. John Ambulance Brigade Hall,
Westwey Road, Weymouth -

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.

Fords Corner Cottage Wyke Regis -

Wednesday afternoons 2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.

Number of children under 5 years making their first attendance:-

(a) Under 1 year of age	...	371
(b) Over 1 year of age	...	143
TOTAL:-		<u>514</u>

Total number of children attending during the year and who at the end of the year were:-

(a) Under 1 year of age	...	434
(b) Over 1 year of age	...	999
TOTAL:-		<u>1,433</u>

The valuable assistance which Mrs. Percy Smallman has continued to give with the clerical and filing work at the Child Welfare Clinics has been much appreciated.

NUMBER OF VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS DURING THE YEAR:

1) To expectant mothers	...	First Visits:	95
		Total Visits:	163
2) To children under 1 year	...	First Visits:	586
		Total Visits:	2,622
3) To children 1-5 years	...	Total Visits:	2,754

These figures indicate that the Health Visitors have been able to give more time than hitherto to district visiting. This has been made possible by the fact that Miss Brown and Mrs. Dowell have undertaken more of the routine work in connection with their cleanliness inspections and clinics.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION:

Number of individual Foster Mothers receiving children	
for reward	...
Number of children cared for by such Foster Mothers	...

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1939:-

Number of persons who gave notice under Section 7(3)	
during the year	...
Number of children in respect of whom such notice	
was given	...
Number of children under supervision at end of year	...

PUBLIC MIDWIFERY SERVICE:

The Westham Nursing Association was authorised by the Central Midwifery Committee and by the Town Council in March to appoint an additional midwife to act as a relief for the Borough until she should be required full-time by the Westham Association.

Five midwives provide, through the local Nursing Associations, a domiciliary midwifery service for the whole Borough as follows:-

Weymouth & Melcombe Regis Nursing Association:

Nurse Swailes, 114 St. Leonards Road Tel.No.Weymouth 1520

Upwey & Broadwey Nursing Association:

Nurse Curtis, 2 Weyview Crescent, Broadwey,
Tel. No. Upwey 217.

Wyke Regis Nursing Association:

Nurse Campbell, 81 High Street, Wyke Regis.
Tel. No. Weymouth 1522.

Westham Nursing Association:

Nurse Denslow, 74 Wardcliffe Road, Weymouth.
Tel. No. Weymouth 1479.

Nurse Bolton, 74 Wardcliffe Road, Weymouth.
Tel. No. Weymouth 1479.

STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1945:

Total number of confinements attended by midwives ...	262
Average number of confinements attended by each midwife ...	52
Net cost to Corporation ...	£681/1/5
Number of Medical Aid Forms ...	42

HOSPITAL MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION:

In 1938 when 51 maternity cases were admitted to the Weymouth & District Hospital under the Corporation's Scheme, I reported that it had long been recognised that the accommodation for such cases was unsatisfactory, and that steps were being taken to ascertain how this could be improved. Unfortunately the outbreak of war has not made it possible to bring about any radical improvement which can be secured only by the erection of a new maternity unit on modern lines.

During the year under review, the Hospital dealt with 183 maternity cases of whom 120 were admitted under the Corporation Scheme. There were five maternal deaths - three of these women were Weymouth residents, and two non-resident in Weymouth but admitted to the Hospital for confinement. Two of these deaths occurred very shortly after the Hospital was severely damaged in the Whit Sunday air raid, and the evacuation of these patients under adverse conditions was probably a contributory cause of their death.

CARE OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN:

Following the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 2866, a conference of the three Welfare Authorities in the County (County Council and Poole and Weymouth Boroughs) to discuss this matter was held early in the year at Dorchester. Subsequently the Weymouth Town Council agreed to make a grant of £100 for one year to St. Gabriel's Home, Weymouth, and authorised the sending of special cases to the new Maternity Home which the Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare proposed to establish at Parkstone.

In this connection it is a pleasure to record ones appreciation of the unfailing help given to the Health Department by Sister Cheasley and Miss Warren of St. Gabriel's Home in dealing with these unfortunate girls who must always be grateful for the care and comfort invariably afforded by these two excellent social workers.

Later in the year it was reported to the Health and Maternity & Child Welfare Committee that for some years it had been the custom of their Maternity Sub-Committee to recommend mothers about to be confined of an illegitimate child to the County Public Assistance Committee for admission to one of their Institutions, whether or not the expectant mother was in receipt of Poor Law Relief. This procedure appeared to be contrary to the spirit of Section 5 of the Local Government Act, 1929. A recommendation that the Town Council should adopt the principle outlined in this Section of the 1929 Act - that all such assistance should be given under the Maternity & Child Welfare provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 - was deferred pending a further report on this question. This matter has also been considered by the Dorset County Council which has now convened a Conference with representatives of the Poole and Weymouth Welfare Authorities - to be held in the near future - with a view to giving effect to the principle outlined above.

HOME HELPS:

In Ministry of Health Circular 58/44 Welfare Authorities were urged to establish Schemes for the provision of Home Helps as part of their Maternity & Child Welfare arrangements. It was stated that where successful Schemes were in operation the Helps were mostly employed full-time by the Welfare Authority, and that their services were utilised for domestic work in Nurseries or Clinics when they were not at a case. The view was expressed in the Circular that in some areas a certain number of part-time women might be engaged who could give, say, 24 hours a week, and although it was realised that such part-time help would be of no service for confinement cases, they might be of assistance in households where the need arose through the presence of young children.

Enquiries from the Local Employment Exchange indicated that there were no women available to act as whole-time Home Helps, and consideration was then given to organising a part-time Home Help Service. The staff of the Employment Exchange co-operated fully when further enquiries were made with this in view, but they could supply particulars of only three women who were prepared to work only one or two hours each day. The Town Council thereupon decided to take no further action in this matter for the time being.

CARE OF PREMATURE BABIES:

Ministry of Health Circular 20/44 regarding the care of premature babies was considered by the Town Council in May, 1944. This Circular stressed the importance to the Nation of exercising every care in the treatment of such children whereby many valuable lives might be saved. The proper treatment of these children in the first few weeks of their lives will go far towards reducing unnecessary infant mortality, and a Scheme will shortly be in operation to ensure that these babies will have the best chance of survival. The following recommendations have so far been adopted:-

- (a) Practitioners and Midwives have been asked to note on the Notification of Birth Cards the birth weight of every child delivered by them;
- (b) Health Visitors have been instructed to meet the District Midwife in charge of a premature infant before the District Midwife leaves the case;

(c) The Hospital has been requested to notify the Medical Officer of Health immediately on the discharge of a premature infant to enable the case to be visited without delay.

It is hoped that arrangements will shortly be made for all premature babies and their mothers to be admitted to Hospital as soon as possible after the confinement.

Special incubator cots - manufactured locally - with all necessary equipment are being provided through the funds of the Ladies Voluntary Committee. These will be kept at the Health Centre and on receipt of a request from a doctor or midwife, a fully equipped incubator cot will at once be taken by ambulance to the house, so that it may be used for the safe and warm transport of the child to hospital, or will be left for use in the home should the case be nursed there.

Since the notification of birth weights began on the 23rd August, 1944, 294 births have been notified of which 19 were of babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or under.

WAR-TIME DAY NURSERY:

The War-time Day Nursery at Elwell Manor has continued to function efficiently. There was an average daily attendance of 37 children throughout the year, and at the end of December there was a waiting list of 21. Earlier in the year the waiting list had been larger, and it was recommended that a second war-time day nursery should be opened, but the Ministry of Health indicated in March that they did not approve of this proposal.

The health of the children has been good, and no serious epidemic of disease has occurred. During the Spring months 26 of the children had Chicken Pox which was then very prevalent in the district. The children are all immunised against Whooping Cough when six months old, and against Diphtheria at nine months.

The Technical Advisor of the National Society of Childrens' Nurseries paid a visit to the Nursery in April, and subsequently reported that there was a very home-like atmosphere in the Nursery, and that the staff co-operated well together thus adding to the smooth running of the Nursery. The report added that the training of students was of a high standard.

In May, Mrs. M. Hill, Nursery Assistant, was successful in passing the examinations for the Nursery Nurses' Diploma, and she was appointed Deputy Matron from the 1st October, 1944. In November Probationer Nurse Gertrude Nash was also successful in passing the examinations for the Nursery Nurses' Diploma. These two successes are an indication of the high standard of training of the nurses referred to above, and reflects great credit on the Matron, Miss M. Taylor.

In May, 1944, the Ministry of Health authorised the appointment of an additional probationer nurse at the Nursery.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

The Table reproduced below indicates the progress made and maintained in securing the immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age. The first injection is now advised when the child is 9 months old, so that protection is established by the time the child is one year of age. Very few parents now refuse consent to immunisation, but much time has still to be spent in explaining to some parents that Diphtheria can cause the death of many children in addition to

much unnecessary suffering and permanent impairment of health unless they are immunised. There can be no relaxation of effort in this work as many parents would fail to present their children for immunisation unless they were personally approached and impressed with its value by members of the Health Department staff.

In this connection, the action outlined in my Report last year has been continued, and a further one injection four years after the primary immunisation is still recommended to enhance the child's immunity against this disease. No civilian case of Diphtheria was notified during 1944, the last case in a Weymouth child having been in November, 1942.

In October, 1944, a Circular was received from the Principal Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, indicating the need for keeping permanent and accurate records of the immunisation history of every child, and advising that such records should be in the form of an individual card index system. The most satisfactory way of obtaining this information was from the records at the Food Office, and permission was obtained for those records to be available for this purpose.

In December, the Town Council approved the appointment for a period of approximately four weeks of a temporary clerk to carry out the work. The courtesy and co-operation of the Food Office staff has been much appreciated.

T A B L E

Number immunised in period:-	0-5 Years	% Immunised	5-15 Years	% Immunised
6 months ended 31/12/42	350	43.4%	214	75%
6 months ended 30/6/43	80	13%	149	83%
6 months ended 31/12/43	657	73%	563	96%
6 months ended 30/6/44	319	78.6%	69	96.1%
6 months ended 31/12/44	356	81.8%	34	97%

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH:

Children from six months to five years of age are immunised against Whooping Cough should the parents make a specific request for this to be done. During the year 126 children were immunised. Though the value of this protection cannot be fully guaranteed, reports indicate that children who have had the requisite course of injections suffer from only a mild form of the disease should they subsequently contract it.

SCABIES:

During the year 598 persons were notified to be suffering from scabies - 124 notifications were received from private practitioners, and the remaining 474 cases were notified by the medical staff of the Public Health Department. These figures show that there have been slightly fewer cases of scabies than in the previous year, when 618 cases were notified from the 16th March - 31st December, 1943.

In addition to Weymouth cases, patients suffering from scabies have throughout the year been referred for treatment at the Weymouth Cleansing Station from the Borough of Dorchester and the surrounding areas of the Dorchester Rural District. 135 such cases have been treated and the usual charge of 4/-d per treatment has been made to the appropriate Authority.

A very large proportion of the 598 cases notified in this Borough have received the usual two treatments with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion at the Cleansing Station, where 188 treatments were carried out in the year. This work was admirably performed by full-time members of the Civil Defence First Aid Post which, however, was closed on the 30th December, 1944. As it was appreciated that the treatment of scabetic patients could not be continued without an addition to the Cleansing Station staff, the Town Council on the 14th December approved the appointment as from the 1st January, 1945, of Miss M. Minchcliffe as attendant for the treatment of scabies.

Scabies is a widespread infestation causing a great deal of annoyance, loss of sleep and a resulting loss of efficiency in work. The control of this infestation is receiving the attention of many Public Health authorities, and it is recognised that the only effective method of eradicating this disease is to follow up all home contacts of infested persons and to cleanse the whole family at the same time. It is particularly important to stress the fact that persons apparently clear of the disease may in fact be infested for several weeks before the characteristic skin irritation appears, and it is therefore advisable for such apparently non-infected contacts to have treatment at the same time as the obviously infected members of the family. During the year this preventative treatment was given to 139 apparently non-infected contacts of scabetic patients.

HEAD INFESTATIONS:

During the year continuous efforts were made to detect and treat infestations with head lice. The Report on the School Medical Services for 1944 indicates the measures taken to control this infestation among school children. The home contacts of verminous children have been followed up, and appropriate treatment of all infested persons carried out - if necessary by the compulsory powers authorised by the Scabies Order, 1941. It must be understood that the Scabies Order deals not only with Scabies, but with all verminous infestations. Many people are unaware of the means by which head infestation can spread and much health propaganda is necessary to educate the public in this direction. In the majority of adults co-operation has been obtained after an explanation of the problems of head infestation, and only rarely has it been found necessary to resort to the use of the Scabies Order. It will readily be appreciated that this work involves much time, patience and tact, and that a considerable time must elapse before head infestation can be eradicated. Some measure of success has already been noticed when the figures for head infestation amongst school children for 1943 and 1944 are compared. In 1943, 644 individual school children had been found to be verminous, in 1944 this figure had decreased to 411, which includes 52 school children coming from the dangerous areas during the summer and early autumn months. This latter figure indicates that the percentage of school children found to be verminous during the year was 12.35%. This may seem to be a high figure particularly when it is compared with corresponding findings in other areas, and it is in my opinion due to the high standard of inspection which is insisted on in Weymouth. It must not be thought that one out of every eight school children was found on inspection during the year to be harbouring live head lice - indeed this was an infrequent occurrence - but a great many of them had nits in

their hair indicating that a live louse had recently been in their hair where it had laid its eggs (nits). Unless these children are classified as verminous and cleansed by the removal of the nits, the latter will in all probability hatch out into live lice and the spread of infestation will continue.

I consider that the adoption of this high standard of inspection and treatment is the only means by which a progressive reduction in head infestation can be achieved, and this medico-social problem finally solved. In this connection it is of interest to note that the legal definition of a verminous infestation given in Section 90 of the Public Health Act, 1936, includes not only the live insects and parasites but "their eggs, larvae and pupae".

A Table is reproduced at the end of this Report showing in detail the work of the Health Department in connection with scabies and head infestations. It would not have been possible to carry out the necessary treatment of all these patients in less adequate premises than those available in the Gas Cleansing Centre adjacent to the Health Centre, or without the assistance of a full-time attendant for the cleansing of verminous heads. In this connection it was agreed by the Town Council in July that Miss Brown's appointment, which had initially been made for a period of six months, should be continued.

FOOD POISONING:

In September there was a sudden but short outbreak of food poisoning. Suspicion was at once directed to a certain foodstuff, further sales of which were immediately stopped. Every assistance was given by the firm concerned both at the time of the outbreak and during the subsequent investigations, and no further cases were reported during the year. In all, 26 cases were notified in the Borough, and the full investigation which was carried out in every case showed that the outbreak was due to a staphylococcal

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:

Samples of the public water supply were taken at regular intervals with the following results:-

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	46
Number of samples giving satisfactory results	...	...	...	...	...	36
Number of samples giving unsatisfactory results	...	...	...	...	...	10

Although ten of these samples gave results which have been classified as unsatisfactory, they gave no cause for alarm and merely indicated slight temporary departures from the usual high standard of purity.

The quantity of water available to consumers appears to be adequate. All the houses in the Borough, with the exception of 24 in Sutton Poyntz and Preston, are supplied by public water mains direct to the houses. These 24 houses depend on drawing their supply from stand pipes in the village. It is satisfactory to note that nearly all the residents in the Borough are supplied with pure water.

Bacterial examinations of the raw water are carried out four times a year. Examinations of the public water supply are carried out every week by the Water Company, and every fortnight by the Public Health Department. The purity of the water is maintained by constant chlorination.

An average analysis of the water gives the following results:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Parts per</u> <u>100,000</u>
Free and saline Ammonia ...	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	.002
Chlorine as Chlorides ...	2.3
(Equivalent to Sodium Chloride)	3.7
Oxygen absorbed ...	.010
Nitrites ...	Nil
Nitrates (Nitrogen as) ...	.41
Lead, Zinc, Copper ...	Nil
Reaction pH ...	7.3
Total solids ...	29.0
Hardness: Temporary ...	15.0
Permanent ...	5.0
Total ...	20.0

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES AT BRITISH RESTAURANTS:

No. of samples taken ...	6
No. of samples giving satisfactory results ...	4
No. of samples giving unsatisfactory results ...	2

In the two latter cases the emergency water tanks were immediately emptied, cleansed and re-filled with fresh water. In addition to the above work all emergency water tanks at Rest Centres were regularly emptied, cleansed and re-filled with fresh water from the main public supply by members of the Health Department staff.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936/41:

During the year 32 samples of pasteurised milk were taken from the two firms in the town who are licenced to treat milk by heat,

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Number of samples taken:</u>			32
Bacteriological Test ...	27	5	32
Phosphatase Test ...	29	3	32

SAMPLING OF ORDINARY MILK SUPPLIES:

The sampling of ordinary milk supplies is now carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Nevertheless, four samples were taken for examination by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. One of these gave a satisfactory result, while the other three were unsatisfactory. In these three latter instances the Producers were communicated with in an endeavour to secure an improvement in the purity of their milk.

HOUSING ACT, 1936:

Official representations under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made during the year in respect of two individually unfit houses. In one instance the Town Council accepted an undertaking by the owner not to allow the house to be used for human habitation. The condition of the other house was under consideration at the end of the year.

Towards the end of the year an official representation, under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, was made in respect of an unfit basement flat (part of a building). The future use of this basement has not yet been decided.

RODENT CONTROL:-

Mr. H. H. Gardner, who had been appointed Rodent Officer in December, 1943, made his first survey of rat infestations in the Borough during the early months of the year, and prepared the necessary maps for submission to the Ministry of Food. The first poisoning operation was conducted on the 7th April, 1944, and the following is a summary of the work done:-

Strength of personnel including Rodent Officer ...	3
Number of complaints received	330
Number of visits of inspection	260
Number of premises treated ...	85
Number of premises cleared of infestation ...	80
Number of premises previously cleared reported to be re-infested	7
Number of bodies of rats recovered	503
Conservative estimate of number of rats destroyed =	3,500 - 3,800.

Mr. Gardner has carried out his duties very efficiently and all infested properties owned by the Corporation, with the exception of the sewers and the Wyke Regis filter beds, were treated with good results. The Marsh refuse tip shows a marked improvement, and with regular inspection and treatment, when necessary, will be generally cleared of rats. The shores and banks of Radipole Lake, the sea wall at North Quay and Nothe Parade have also received treatment which has also been carried out at quite a number of "third party" premises.

During July, August and September, with the help of Mr. Cousins of the Borough Surveyor's Department, test baiting of the sewers was carried out, and all man hole covers in the sections of the sewerage system which require to be treated were lifted, the man holes inspected and numbered, and a record made of all man holes requiring baiting trays. This record was forwarded to the Borough Surveyor, and the work of fixing the trays has now been completed by his Department. The complete Scheme of operational procedure to rid the sewers of rats has been forwarded to the Ministry of Food, and it is hoped that it will be possible to have this important work carried out during the early months of 1945.

NOTE: It is regretted that this Report for 1944 is so late in being circulated, but as the Statistical Returns from the Registrar General were not received until mid July, the report could not be completed before that time.

ANALYSIS OF SCABIES NOTIFICATIONS 1944

(a) Total number of Cases Notified	(b) Number notified by Practitioners	(c) Number notified by Public Health Department.	(d) Total number of Treatments	(e) Non-Infected Contacts Treated	(f) No. of Cases treated from Dorchester R.D.C.
598	124	474	1,882	139	135

Details of Column (c) showing origin of cases notified by Public Health Department

1 From School Cleanliness Inspection	2. From Minor Ailment Clinic	3. From rout- ine Exam- inations	4. Contacts from (1), (2) and (3)	5. From Mat. & Child welfare Clinics	6. Contacts from (5)	7. Contacts from Practition- ers Notific- ations.	8. Self reported by patient	9. Contacts of (8)	10. Total No. Primary Notifications	11. Total No. Contacts
69	37	8	130	24	26	76	59	45	210	264

VERMINOUS HEAD INFESTATIONS 1944

(a) Total No. of Infested Persons seen	(b) No. School age	(c) No. of indiv. school child- ren verminous	(d) No. of indiv. adults verminous	(e) No. of indiv. children under 5 years verminous	(f) No. of persons cleansed School Adult Under Total 5	(g) Total No. of Treatments given	(h) No. of child- ren Exam- ined	(i) % of Infest- ation of School Children
876	611	411	148	35	461 169 47 677	894	30,624	12.35%

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' WORK, 1944.

Drainage Work.

Inspection and testing of drainage work and sanitary appliances in New Buildings during erection:-

No. of new buildings visited: 1.

No. of visits for the purpose of inspecting and testing of underground drains: 2.

Inspection of drainage work and sanitary appliances in Existing Buildings:

The undermentioned new sanitary appliances were fitted and inspected:

New watercloset basins - 10.

New sinks - 5.

New baths - 4.

New wash hand basins - 2.

New soil pipes and ventilating shafts - 3.

New urinals - 1.

New cesspools - 1.

No. of premises in respect of which additional drainage works were carried out - 1.

No. of premises completely re-drained (due to defective system) - 14.

No. of premises partly re-drained (due to system being partly defective) - 21.

No. of premises completely re-drained (due to cesspools only being abolished and conversions to main drainage, earth closets and privies not included) - 7.

No. of premises partly re-drained (due to cesspools only being abolished and conversions to main drainage system, earth closets and privies not include) - 4.

No. of premises in respect of which the drains were found to be defective after testing - 32.

Visits.

No. of visits made for the purpose of inspecting and testing new underground foul drains - 172.

No. of visits made for the purpose of inspecting and testing existing drainage systems - 66.

No. of visits made in connection with proposed drainage alterations - 52.

No. of visits made to inspect small sewage purification plant - 4.

Premises drained to new main sewerage system at Upwey, Broadway etc:-

Upwey and Broadway - 10.

Other areas - 3.

Total - 13.

Connections to new sewers at Upwey, Broadway etc.

No. of cesspools abolished - 11.

No. of earth closets abolished - 1.

No. of privies abolished - 1.

Inspection work other than drainage.

Inspection (including 9 re-inspections) of dwelling houses - 72.

Visits to Corporation houses - 4.

Visits in connection with infectious diseases - 118.

Inspection of factories - 14.

Inspection of Outworkers premises - 1

Visits in connection with overcrowding - 3.

Inspection of Bakehouses - 29.

Inspection of Food Preparation places - 32.

Inspection of Slaughterhouse - 191.

Inspection of General Food shops - 111.

Inspection of Dairy Farms - 48.

Inspection of Butcher shops - 34.

Inspection of Fish shops - 6.

Inspection of Bulk food stores	-	10.
Inspection of Dairies	-	47.
Inspection of Restaurants	-	9.
Visits in connection with milk sampling	-	34.
Visits in connection with water sampling	-	52.
Inspection of pig styes	-	4.
Inspection of Basement dwellings	-	11.
Inspection of Hotels and Public houses	-	6.
Inspection of Public Conveniences	-	70.
Inspection of Bombed sites	-	33.
Inspection of Air Raid shelters	-	6.
Inspection of Refuse tip	-	13.
Visits to Mosquito breeding areas	-	11.
Inspection of ditches	-	1.
Visits to G.W.R. Station	-	12.
Visits to War damaged houses	-	14.
Visits to Boarding houses	-	2.
Visits to Registered Clubs	-	7.
Visits in connection with vermin	-	7.
Visits to Caravan	-	2.
Visits in connection with refugees	-	5.
Visits to places of entertainment	-	1.
Miscellaneous visits	-	153.

As a result of these inspections the following administrative action was taken:-

1. Statutory Notices served	-	3.
2. Informal Notices served	-	91.
3. Prosecutions	-	2.

i.e. Milk & Dairies Order, 1926, Act. 25. - Fines imposed £8.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 39. - Fine imposed £5 with costs with continuing penalty of £2 per day after six weeks.

No. of Notices outstanding at the end of the year:

1. Statutory Notices	-	4.
2. Informal Notices	-	37.

No. of complaints received and dealt with.

Overflowing cesspools	-	38.
Drains choked or defective	-	53.
Offensive deposits	-	29.
House defects	-	25.
Dampness	-	9.
Milk bottles delivered in a dirty condition	-	2.
Sewers choked	-	1.
Leaking water pipe	-	1.
Flushing cistern defective	-	1.
Dirty premises	-	9.
Verminous premises	-	22.
Sink defective	-	1.
Offensive smells	-	16.
Foul or choked watercourse	-	4.
Waterclosets defective	-	3.
Urinal defective	-	1.
Flies	-	14.
Refuse tip	-	2.
Absence of water supply to W.C.	-	1.
Animals kept insanitary	-	6.
Insanitary earthcloset	-	1.
Dustbins defective	-	1.
Absence of food store	-	1.
Overcrowding of Fire-watchers' premises	-	4.
Overcrowding of houses	-	3.
Dirty Aid Raid shelters	-	2.

overcrowding of houses
premises
overcrowding of houses
Sixty Aid Raid shelters

4.
3.
2.

-17-

overcrowding of houses
premises
overcrowding of houses
Sixty Aid Raid shelters

4.
3.
2.

-17-

Foul street water tank	-	1.
Inadequate cooking arrangements in a house	-	1.
Smoke nuisance	-	1.
Mosquitoes	-	1.
Absence of water supply (House)	-	1.
Sewage fouling the Harbour	-	1.

Details of Sanitary Improvements effected as a result of inspections made and Notices served.

Dwellinghouses.

Roofs repaired	-	4.
Doors repaired	-	5.
Ceilings repaired	-	5.
Dampness remedied	-	12.
Floors repaired or renewed	-	14.
Windows repaired	-	5.
Sinks provided, renewed or sink waste pipes renewed	-	11.
Wall plasterwork repaired	-	3.
Ranges and grates renewed or repaired	-	6.
Walls rebuilt or repaired	-	1.
Paving repaired	-	1.
Staircase repaired	-	1.
Chimney repaired	-	1.
Mantel shelf repaired	-	1.

Waterclosets.

New watercloset basins fitted	-	9.
Flushing cisterns repaired	-	5.
Doors repaired	-	2.
Seats repaired	-	1.
Windows repaired	-	1.

Drainage

Choked drains cleared	-	8.
Drains repaired or renewed	-	4.
Repairs to gully benchings	-	2.
Repairs to Fresh Air inlet valves	-	2.
Interceptor stoppers replaced	-	5.
New covers fixed to inspection chambers	-	4.
Cesspools emptied	-	21.
Rainwater guttering and down pipes cleared, provided or repaired	-	5.
Defective soil pipes renewed or repaired	-	2.

Miscellaneous.

Premises cleaned	-	3.
Offensive deposits disposed of	-	7.
Choked ditches cleared	-	1.
Cowsheds linewashed	-	1.
Walls cleansed	-	1.
Animals kept insanitary - nuisance abated	-	2.

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected	-	242.
Articles disinfected	-	9654.
Articles destroyed	-	27.
Wardens' Posts, Fire watching premises and A.R.P. Shelters were disinfected at regular intervals during the year.		
Emergency Water tanks were emptied and cleansed periodically.		

Animals destroyed.

Cats - 176.
Kittens - 87.
Dogs - 102

Ambulance Removals - 1106

Meat and other Foods Inspection.

Pigs slaughtered in one private slaughterhouse.

No. killed - 1112.
No. inspected - 1112.

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned - 2.)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned - 21.) 2.07%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned - 5.)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned - 203.) 18.71%

Goats slaughtered - 1.
Goats inspected - 1.

Meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouse.

Pig carcasses with offal - 7.
Pig heads - 131.
Pig plucks - 40.
Pig intestines - 184 sets.
Pig fore quarters - 10.
Pig livers - 3.
Pig hearts - 14.
Pig lungs - 10 sets.
Pig kidneys - 17.
Pig legs or part legs - 3 plus 70 lbs.

Food condemned in Shops and Stores (and disposed of in accordance with Ministry of Food instructions).

Chickens	- 70 lbs.	Geese	- 4.
Carrots	- 13 tins.	Dried peas	- 56 lbs.
Split peas	- 1 cwt.	Peas	- 4 tins.
Carcase of beef	- 1	Carcase of mutton	- 9
Mutton	- 696 lbs.	Sheep forequarter	- 1.
Pig head and fore quarter	- 51½ lbs.	Pilchards	- 55 tins.
Salmon	- 25 tins.	Crayfish	- 1 tin.
Milk	- 285 tins.	Beans	- 75 tins.
Vegetables in gravy	- 3 tins.	Luncheon Meat	- 50 tins + 18½ lbs.
Stewed steak	- 8 tins.	Fish cakes	- 29 doz.
Preserves, jam & Marmalade	- 217 pots & tins	Pork and beans	- 2 tins.
Minced beef	- 1 tin	Plums	- 4 tins.
Fish paste	- 75 pots	Soup	- 49 tins or pots
Soup	- 145 pkts.	Stew	- 1 tin
Cooked Ham	- 6 tins	Chopped Ham	- 6 tins + 14½ lbs.
Sardines	- 7 tins	Hams	- 13 tins + 442 lbs.
Herrings	- 2 tins	Toffees	- 7½ lbs.
Semolina	- 14 pkts.	Madeira cakes	- 7
Swiss Roll	- 1	Pork Sausage	- 4 tins
Corned Beef	- 19 tins	Sausage meat	- 1 tin + 2½ lbs.
Ox tongue	- 6 lbs.	Bacon	- 517 lbs. 11 ozs.
Grape fruit	- 1 tin.	Vinegar	- 2 bottles.
Cheese	- 34 lbs. 8 oz.	Flour	- 20 lbs.
Butter	- 10½ lbs.	Gravy salt	- 7 lbs + 3 doz. pkt.
Lard	- 4 lbs.	Beef	- 6 tins + 105 lb. 12
Sheel Eggs	- 49	Sugar	- 10 cwt. 65 lbs.
Egg Powder	- 3 tins.	Dried Egg	- 57 pkts.

Galantine	- 11lbs.2ozs.	Pork Loaf	- 30 lbs.
Golden Syrup	- 4 tins	Kippers	-142 lbs.
Shrimps	- 1 tin	Cocoa	-44 tins + 5 pkts.
Tea	- 24 lbs.	Barley	- 3 lbs.
Figs	- 1 lb.	Potatoes	- 1 tin + 1 cwt.
Pork tongue	- 1 tin	Rice	- 40 lbs.
Pork	- 43 lbs.	Biscuits	- 56 tins
Mixed Cereals	- 28 tins	Gravy thick	- 59 pkts.
Pancake powder	- 48 pkts.	Margarine	- 4 lb.
Unidentified tinned goods	- 2170.	Veal stuffing	- 2 pkts.
Oxo cubes	- 160	Beetroot	- 1 tin
Lemon Cake flour	- 4 pkts.	Pepper	-86 tins
Table salt	- 1 pkt.	Crisp bread	- 1 pkt.
Rusks	- 2 pkts.	Cream barley	- 2 pkts.
Parsley	- 10 pkts.	Pudding mixture	- 3 pkts.
Porridge oats	- 2 pkts.	Cornflour	- 2 tins
Boric powder	- 1 pkt.	Herbs	-34 pkts.
Banana pudding	- 26 pkts.	Orange pudding	-30 pkts.
Sweets & lemonade powder	- 32 tins.	Salad Cream, sauces	- 92 bottles.
Mustard, soup, bisto, jellies, pickles and crystals	-951 pkts & bottles.	Pea flour	- 2 pkts.
All Bran	-1 pkt.	Puffed wheat	- 14 pkts.
Sponge pudding	-6 pkts.	Chocolate	- 72 boxes + 12 bars

Meat Inspection in the Borough of Dorchester (Assistance).

No. of visits made to Dorchester - 46.

Animals examined

<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>
807	221	48.	85.	4.

Meat condemned.

Bullocks' carcasses with offal	- 27.
Bullocks' fore quarters	- 20.
Other small parts of beef	- 7.
Sheep carcasses with offal	- 4.
Pig carcasses with offal	- 2.
Other mixed offal	-11033 lbs.

(Above figures are included in the Annual Report on the Medical Office of Health, Borough of Dorchester).

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